

seek a cure for cancer, I do not care about you.

□ 1545

For the 16 million diabetics in this country, he says, "I do not care about you." For those with Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, lots of other diseases, he says, "Sorry, I do not care about you."

We can be sure that if this budget were proposed by the majority Congress, the administration would call it a cut in funding, and probably the media would say the same thing, that we do not care about the lives of people who are sick.

Well, in fact, we do. Both Democrats and Republicans in this Congress care deeply for NIH funding and deeply for those who are sick with chronic, debilitating diseases which affect all of us as Americans, regardless of our races or religions or genders. It is a fact of life that the government can help do something about.

So I think there should be outrage today over the President's budget game for biomedical research. Both Democrats and Republicans should rise up and say no. And I urge my colleagues to call on the President, Mr. Speaker, on this game he is playing with biomedical research, and anyone who cares about curing chronic disease in this country should do the same.

#### BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES BONUS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly three years since we passed the Nation's welfare reform law, and most news reports paint a very glowing picture. The welfare rolls are at a 30-year low; more people than ever are working; billions of surplus welfare dollars stack up in government coffers, unspent and unused. The great social experiment, the 1996 welfare reform law, is a great success, right? Right?

But, Mr. Speaker, what about the 14.5 million children still living in poverty, or the 71 percent of welfare recipients who end up in dead-end jobs that pay below the poverty line? What about the many States that get people off welfare by simply turning away people asking for help, or the States that meet their goals by shifting welfare recipients into low-paying jobs with no benefits and no career or salary ladders.

We do not hear much about these families, Mr. Speaker, because we are still thinking about welfare reform in the wrong way. We had it wrong when we set out to end welfare as we know it. Our goal should have been then and should be now to end poverty as we know it.

Mr. Speaker, I know it is not fashionable or popular to talk about making changes in the welfare law these days. But, Mr. Speaker, I would say that

today is exactly the right time to be rethinking our Nation's welfare policies. With the economy booming and a surplus growing in Federal welfare accounts, States do not have to content themselves to simply get people off of welfare. States should and could be taking advantage of the opportunity they now have to invest in helping low-income families become truly self-sufficient.

Yesterday, I introduced a new bill: The Building Opportunities Bonus Act, or BOB. It will be easy to remember. BOB provides \$1 billion over five years to reward the ten States that do the best job in three key areas, key areas to getting welfare recipients in self-sufficiency. First, child care. Second, job training. And third, assistance for victims of domestic violence.

Services like these will ensure that poor children are not left behind; that welfare recipients can access good jobs, jobs actually that can weather a dip in the economy; and that battered women can get and keep jobs while keeping themselves and their families safe.

Thirty years ago, Mr. Speaker, I was a single mother on welfare. Because I was employed, I was forced to shuffle my kids, ages one, three and five, among 13 different child care providers in a single 12-month period. I was working at the time, using my welfare check to pay for child care and health care for my family, but it was not until I had a consistent, reliable child care situation that I was able to truly grow in my job, and immediately I was able to support my family without the welfare safety net.

Every family on welfare needs quality and accessible child care. Welfare moms also need educational and training opportunities. Americans have long realized that education is the door to success. But our new welfare law has too often told welfare recipients that the only door open to them is the employees' entrance to McDonald's. Without job skills, welfare recipients are shifted into dead-end jobs, entry level jobs that pay below the poverty line. These jobs cannot support a family, and they are the first to go when the economy falters.

Many poor women struggle not just with their economic situation, but also face the harsh reality of domestic violence. Studies show that between 15 and 30 percent of welfare recipients suffer from domestic violence and from abuse. We need to address this issue head-on and make sure women suffering from domestic violence can improve first their home situation, and then their economic situation. And we do not want to trap them in jobs that are dead-end.

The sad truth is that we are nowhere close to providing enough of these services: child care, job training, and help from domestic violence. We need to give States an incentive. That is the only way welfare reform is really going to work for all Americans, so that welfare-to-work equates into true self-sufficiency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. EMERSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### A FAIR AND SIMPLE PLAN TO CUT TAXES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the American people are overtaxed, and it is time for Congress and the President to let them keep more of their hard-earned money.

This year, Federal taxes will represent 22 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. This means that the Federal tax burden is at an all-time high. With the Federal Government projected to run a budget surplus of \$2.6 trillion over the next 10 years, there is no excuse for taxing the American people at a higher rate than was necessary to win World War II.

On the opening day of the 106th Congress, I introduced a bill that cuts Federal income taxes by 10 percent across the board. This proposal is the simplest and the fairest way to provide the American people with the tax relief that they deserve.

Instead of picking winners and losers among overtaxed Americans, this proposal increases the take-home pay of everyone who pays Federal income taxes.

We should not require taxpayers to engage in a government-preferred activity or force them to jump through multiple hoops in order to keep more of their own money. A broad-based tax cut avoids adding further complexity to the Tax Code and gives all American workers the relief that they need.

In recent years, efforts to provide the American people with significant tax relief has been derailed by the contention that cutting taxes would hurt Social Security. This has always been a shaky argument, but it does not even have a leg to stand on today. Here is some arithmetic or numbers to keep in mind.

A 10 percent across-the-board tax cut would cost the Federal Government \$743 billion over a 10-year period. This means that more than \$1.8 trillion of the \$2.6 trillion budget surplus that the Federal Government will run over the same time span would be available to strengthen Social Security.

When looking at these numbers, it becomes clear that cutting taxes and